

**To:** Cseh, Larry (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD)[loc3@cdc.gov]  
**Cc:** Strausbaugh, Dan[Strausbaugh.Dan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Strausbaugh, Dan  
**Sent:** Sat 8/8/2015 4:56:32 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Draft response of Preliminary Water Samples from Gold King Animas River Spill

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Thanks Larry,

I asked Chris to send a meeting invite for a meeting in approx. 30 minutes w/You, Scott Sudweeks, David Dorian, Chris Poulet, Michelle Watters, and me. The objective of the meeting is to review the draft, discuss and ensure consensus that the response sufficiently answers SJBHD's request.

Thanks,

Dan

Dan Strausbaugh, MPH

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**From:** Cseh, Larry (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD) [mailto:loc3@cdc.gov]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 08, 2015 10:38 AM  
**To:** Stephens, James W. (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD)

**Cc:** Poulet, Chris; Strausbaugh, Dan; Scheel, Christian (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Watters, Michelle; Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD); Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD); Cseh, Larry (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD)

**Subject:** Draft response of Preliminary Water Samples from Gold King Animas River Spill

Jimmy,

Here is a draft response for the San Juan Basin Health Department. I am sending it to you and Region VIII realizing it is not to be released or shared without your approval. I will also contact OC about the factsheet requested for the general public.

Larry

The following response is at the request of, San Juan Basin Health, who requested “information for health care providers treating patients with exposure to the contaminated water along with general information for the public.” On August 5<sup>th</sup> the mining waste from the Gold King Mine cleanup site was released into the Cement Creek that ran into the Animas River. The local sheriff close the river for all recreational uses and notifications went to any water systems downstream to close their water intakes. Reviewing the water samples results submitted August 7, 2015 from sample collected on August 5 and 6 at six locations. The result show that levels are dropping from initial samples.

# Wells/Ex. 9

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With the exception of Cement Creek 14<sup>th</sup> street bridge, all other sampling locations show a decrease in the levels of the dissolved metals and we anticipate them to decrease in the future. The Animas River is an open water source and not considered potable until it has been properly treated, with that said we expect that people are not drinking the water straight from the river. The sampling collection information identifies areas with a yellow cloudy water at the areas with lower pH and high metals. Notice should be given to not use areas with cloudy water conditions. We do not anticipate the elevated metals cited to be of health concerns for persons with dermal exposure. Are comparison values take into consideration of incidental consumption and should not be an issue. Good personal hygiene washing with soap and water after contact with the water is a sound practice for not only the metals but also any bacteria that maybe present. Anyone who feels ill should contact their local physician.

We understand that the EPA is investigating the well water issue and stand ready to assists with data interpretation upon request. The livestock issue is not an area that we handle and I believe the EPA and possible the state are working that issue.

CAPT Larry F. Cseh, R.S., MSA

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